(c) The post of Bill Issuer being non-selection post, promotion thereto is made on seniority-cum-suitability basis, the suitability of persons concerned having been adjudged by a senior scale officer in the Parliament House Catering Complex.

(d) and (e) The qualification for future recruitment to entry grade of Waiter in the pay scale of Rs. 2610—3540 has since been prescribed as Class 8th. They will be eligible for further promotion on seniorty-cum-suitability basis as Head Waiter in grade Rs. 2650—4000 and then as Bill Issuer in grade Rs. 2750—4400.

Promotion for Class IV employees

2876. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Class IV employees working in Railway Canteens in Parliament Complex (Northern Railway) are given promotion as per seniority;

(b) if so, whether the educated and qualified Class IV employees are ignored in giving promotions;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to encourage and promote those Class IV employees who are educated, by selecting through conducting exams, etc. and ignoring the seniority list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) All higher grades posts in group 'D' other than initial recruitment grade are filled in on seniority-cum-suitability basis being non-selection posts. Suitability of staff is adjudged in order of their seniority. At present, there is no provision to give promotion to the staff solely on the basis of educational qualification, ignoring the seniority.

Fore-warning of earthquakes

†2877. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether fore-warning of earthquakes in the country can be made through satellite imaging;

(b) whether this technique has been effective in fore-warning earthquakes in US and Japan;

(c) if so, whether Government have asked the environment scientists of the country to issue instructions for taking precautionary measures much in advance, in tremor-prone areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what decision Government have taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (e) R&D efforts are continuing the world over to find methods of forecasting earthquake occurrence. Satellite imaging is one among many different methods that scientist are working on. However, at present no scientific technique, including satellite imaging is available anywhere in the world, to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes with a reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, time and magnitude. The Department of Science and Technology is supporting wide-ranging research in several institutions to better understand the earthquake phenomena and enable higher levels of preparedness.

Science and technology policy to boost production process

2878. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the salient features of new Science and Technology policy to boost agricultural and industrial production processes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): At present no new Science and Technology policy to boost agricultural and industrial production process has been formulated.